

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**JOY LUCRETIA CLARK,**  
**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, et al.,**  
**Defendants.**

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**CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CV-0883**

**ORDER**

**AND NOW**, this 29th day of May, 2025, upon consideration of Plaintiff Joy Lucretia Clark's Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (Doc. No. 1), and Complaint (Doc. No. 2) it is **ORDERED** that:

1. Leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* is **GRANTED** pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915.
2. The Complaint is **DEEMED** filed.
3. The Complaint is other **DISMISSED IN PART WITH PREJUDICE AND IN PART WITHOUT PREJUDICE** failure to state a claim, pursuant to 28 U.S.C.

§ 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii), for the reasons stated in the Court's accompanying Memorandum as follows:

- a. All claims alleged against the Defendants pursuant to the Higher Education Act, the Federal Trade Commission Act, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and any claims seeking injunctive relief from the Department of Education are **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**.
- b. All other claims are **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**.
4. Clark may file an amended complaint within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. Any amended complaint must identify all defendants in the caption of the amended complaint in addition to identifying them in the body of the amended complaint and shall state

the basis for Clark's claims against each defendant. The amended complaint shall be a complete document that does not rely on the initial Complaint or other papers filed in this case to state a claim. When drafting her amended complaint, Clark should be mindful of the Court's reasons for dismissing the claims in her initial Complaint as explained in the Court's Memorandum. Upon the filing of an amended complaint, the Clerk shall not make service until so **ORDERED** by the Court.

5. The Clerk of Court is **DIRECTED** to send Clark a blank copy of this Court's current standard form to be used by a self-represented litigant filing a civil action bearing the above-captioned civil action number. Clark may use this form to file her amended complaint if she chooses to do so.

6. If Clark does not wish to amend her Complaint and instead intends to stand on her Complaint as originally pled, she may file a notice with the Court within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order stating that intent, at which time the Court will issue a final order dismissing the case. Any such notice should be titled "Notice to Stand on Complaint," and shall include the civil action number for this case. *See Weber v. McGrogan*, 939 F.3d 232, 241 (3d Cir. 2019) ("If the plaintiff does not desire to amend, [s]he may file an appropriate notice with the district court asserting [her] intent to stand on the complaint, at which time an order to dismiss the action would be appropriate." (quoting *Borelli v. City of Reading*, 532 F.2d 950, 951 n.1 (3d Cir. 1976) (*per curiam*))); *In re Westinghouse Sec. Litig.*, 90 F.3d 696, 703–04 (3d Cir. 1996) (holding "that the district court did not abuse its discretion when it dismissed with prejudice the otherwise viable claims . . . following plaintiffs' decision not to replead those claims" when the district court "expressly warned plaintiffs that failure to replead the remaining claims . . . would result in the dismissal of those claims").

7. If Clark fails to file any response to this Order, the Court will conclude that Clark intends to stand on her Complaint and will issue a final order dismissing this case.<sup>1</sup> *See Weber*, 939 F.3d at 239–40 (explaining that a plaintiff’s intent to stand on her complaint may be inferred from inaction after issuance of an order directing him to take action to cure a defective complaint).

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**BY THE COURT:**

*/s/ Karen Spencer Marston*

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**KAREN SPENCER MARSTON, J.**

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<sup>1</sup> The six-factor test announced in *Poulis v. State Farm Fire & Cas. Co.*, 747 F.2d 863 (3d Cir. 1984), is inapplicable to dismissal orders based on a plaintiff’s intention to stand on her complaint. *See Weber*, 939 F.3d at 241 & n.11 (treating the “stand on the complaint” doctrine as distinct from dismissals under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to comply with a court order, which require assessment of the *Poulis* factors); *see also Elansari v. Altria*, 799 F. App’x 107, 108 n.1 (3d Cir. 2020) (*per curiam*). Indeed, an analysis under *Poulis* is not required when a plaintiff willfully abandons the case or makes adjudication impossible, as would be the case when a plaintiff opts not to amend her complaint, leaving the case without an operative pleading. *See Dickens v. Danberg*, 700 F. App’x 116, 118 (3d Cir. 2017) (*per curiam*) (“Where a plaintiff’s conduct clearly indicates that [s]he willfully intends to abandon the case, or where the plaintiff’s behavior is so contumacious as to make adjudication of the case impossible, a balancing of the *Poulis* factors is not necessary.”); *Baker v. Accounts Receivables Mgmt., Inc.*, 292 F.R.D. 171, 175 (D.N.J. 2013) (“[T]he Court need not engage in an analysis of the six *Poulis* factors in cases where a party willfully abandons her case or otherwise makes adjudication of the matter impossible.” (citing cases)).